

ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1909.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

ORRELL,

FEBRUARY 26th, 1910.

To the Chairman and Members of the Orrell Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the annual report on the sanitary condition of the Urban District of Orrell for the year ending December 31st, 1909, along with the tables of Vital Statistics as required by the Local Government Board, the County Council, and the Home Office. During the first half of the year the sanitary arrangements in the district were controlled by Dr. Lloyd Johnstone, who resigned the appointment on severing his connection with the district.

You did me the honour of appointing me Medical Officer of Health in July, and I took up the duties of the office in August.

Orrell is situated about $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles from the centre of the County Borough of Wigan, and borders on it. It forms one of the districts in the Wigan Union. The highest point is in the centre of the district, and stands over 300 feet above the sea level. Orrell covers an area of 1,618 statute acres, with an estimated population of 6,015, giving a density of 3.7 per acre. It is essentially an agricultural district, though the chief occupations of the inhabitants are coal mining and the cotton industry, carried on in the surrounding districts. There is a cotton mill and a roburite factory in the district, but apart from these there are no large works. There are plenty open spaces, and the township at no part can be considered congested.

BIRTHS.—The number of births registered during the year 1909 was 212, 104 males and 108 females, giving a rate of 35.2 per 1,000 of the population. This is an increase of 6.0 on last year, and an increase of 1.07 on the average for the past 10 years. There were 4 illegitimate births, 1.8 per cent., a decrease of 7 on last year's returns.

Males during 1st quarter ...30	Females during 1st quarter...32
Males during 2nd quarter.....26	Females during 2nd quarter..34
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Males for 1st half-year.....56	Females for 1st half-year.....66
Males during 3rd quarter.....26	Females during 3rd quarter..22
Males during 4th quarter ...22	Females during 4th quarter..20
—	—
Males for 2nd half-year.....48	Females for 2nd half-year.....42

The births exceeded the deaths by 108.

DEATHS.—The nett deaths at all ages belonging to the district number 104, 53 males and 51 females, as against 105 deaths last year.

This gives a rate of 17.2 per 1,000 of the population, a reduction of .2 on last year, and an increase of .95 on the average for the last 6 years.

Males during 1st quarter.....15	Females during 1st quarter...13
Males during 2nd quarter....16	Females during 2nd quarter..16
—	—
Males for 1st half-year.....31	Females for 1st half-year.....29
Males during 3rd quarter.....11	Females during 3rd quarter.. 5
Males during 4th quarter.....11	Females during 4th quarter..17
—	—
Males for 2nd half-year.....22	Females for 2nd half-year.....22

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year of age) number 35, over one-third of the total number of deaths from all causes, giving a rate of 165.09

per 1,000 births. This is a decrease of 56 on last year, but on the adverse side as regards the average for the past ten years by three.

Seven of the deaths occurred among children who were weakly from birth. If we exclude these, we get a rate of 132 per 1,000 births. There were two deaths of illegitimate children, both under one year of age.

The chief causes of deaths at this age were: 7 Wasting Diseases, probably from ante natal causes; 5 Diarrhœa; 7 Enteritis; 2 Gastritis; 8 Chest Troubles (the latter including two deaths from Measles); and 3 Tuberculous Diseases. The number in the first four groups, 21, is not encouraging, and could be reduced, as in my opinion the deaths are brought about by causes which can be combated. We want better care of would-be mothers during the latter months of their child-bearing period, and after birth we require instruction and educating of mothers in the proper care and feeding of their offspring.

THE NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT has not been adopted by the Council. A District Nursing Association has been formed in the district, and one Nurse has been appointed. A scheme has been started whereby the midwives voluntarily notify the births occurring in the district, and the District Nurse has agreed to instruct the mothers in the proper nurturing and upbringing of their children.

There were 29 deaths of people 60 years and over, so that the two extremes of life accounted for nearly two-thirds of the total number of deaths.

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.—The number of deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases, Smallpox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, and Diarrhœa, was 13, as against 22 in 1908—rate 2.16 per 1,000 of the population, less by 1.5 than that of 1908, and 1.2 less than the average for the last four years.

PHTHISIS.—Phthisis accounted for 5 deaths, as against 9 in 1908—rate, .83 per 1,000 of the population. The average rate per 1,000 of the population for the last

3 years was 1.16. Phthisis is not notifiable, but the inhabitants in the district are becoming more enlightened as regards the infectious nature of this disease, and some desire disinfection of the sick room and bedding after a death from this cause. The homes are visited after death, instructions are given, and precautionary measures taken to prevent the spread of infection.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.—There were 26 deaths from respiratory diseases, other than Phthisis. If we include the 5 deaths from Measles, which were all complicated with respiratory troubles, and one death from Whooping Cough, we get a total of 32 deaths from this cause. Twenty of the deaths occurred in the first half of the year, and 12 in the second half. There were 15 deaths from Pneumonia, and 9 from Bronchitis. Four of the former were of children under one year of age, and two of the latter.

For statistical purposes these diseases yield a rate of 4.32 per 1,000 of the population. This is higher than last year by 1.33, and higher than the average for the past three years by 1.11. The cause of this increase, I have no doubt, is due to the cold and wet weather experienced during the year, with lack of sunshine.

Deaths, classified according to age groups, are as follows:—

Under one year of age	...	...	35
One year and under 5	...	...	9
5 years and under 15	...	..	2
15 years and under 25	...	...	1
25 years and under 65	...	...	35
65 years and upwards	...	...	22
			—
			104

Under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, 1889, there were 67 notifications received:—

Diphtheria	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	11
Scarlet Fever	...	...	49
Enteric Fever	...	...	3
Puerperal Fever	...	...	2
			—
			67

The year 1908 was a record in this respect, only 21 cases being notified.

DIPHTHERIA.—There were two cases of Diphtheria notified, and both recovered. The Council have again authorised the use of Diphtheric Antitoxic Serum, free of charge.

There were 11 cases of Erysipelas, with one death, and three cases of Enteric Fever, all recovered.

SCARLET FEVER.—Scarlet Fever was prevalent during the year yielding a return of 49 cases. It was of a mild type, scattered throughout the district, and never assumed epidemic form.

The incidence rate for the year was 7.9 per 1,000 of the population. The case death-rate was 4.08 per cent., and the death-rate per 1,000 of the population was .33.

Two cases occurred in the first quarter, 16 in the second, 11 in the third, and 20 in the fourth quarter. The majority of the cases, 36, occurred in children of school going ages (5 to 15 years), yet it was not deemed necessary to close any of the schools, but one school was disinfected during the Christmas holiday recess, as a preventive measure.

Your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Farrimond, deserves credit for his constant visitation at the homes, otherwise this disease would have assumed epidemic form, for isolation at the homes is not satisfactory.

MEASLES.—There were five deaths from Measles, all occurring in the second quarter of the year. This gives a rate of .83 per 1,000 of the population. There were no deaths from this cause last year. Measles is not notifiable in the district.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The question of Hospital accommodation and disinfecting appliances is exercising the attention of the Council at present, and is the subject of a special report.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1902.—There were two cases of Puerperal Fever recorded during the year, with one death. This gave an attack rate of 9.4 per 1,000 births, and a case mortality of 50 per

cent. The cases occurred in the fourth quarter of the year, when Erysipelas was most prevalent in the district. I state it as a fact, the figures being too few to draw any significance from them. Both cases were reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, and were investigated by one of the County Lady Inspectors appointed under this Act.

Reviewing the statistics presented, the birth-rate has increased on the previous year, and also on the average for the previous ten years. The death-rate has decreased on the 1908 return, but shows a slight increase on the average for the past seven years. This seems satisfactory on the face of it, for, when there is a large birth-rate, we would naturally expect a high death-rate. But we cannot congratulate ourselves on the death-rate. In my opinion 17.2 is a high death-rate for an urban district. The chief causes which go to swell the death-rate are the waste in infant life and the number of deaths from respiratory diseases. Climatic conditions have not proved a great factor in the waste in infant life during the past year, for from the returns we find 8 deaths occurring from Enteritis, one in each month of the year except May, June, August, and September. The respiratory diseases have been touched upon earlier in the report.

The Zymotic death-rate is less than last year, but higher than the average for the past ten years.

The Water Supply has been good and plentiful.

RAINFALL, 1908 & 1909, AT BISPHAM.

<i>Month.</i>	<i>Rainfall in inches and tenths.</i>		<i>No. of days on which rain fell being .01 of an inch or more.</i>	
	1908.	1909.	1908.	1909.
January ...	2.33	1.86	14	17
February ...	3.17	0.87	22	9
March ...	2.87	2.93	17	19
April ...	2.73	2.68	16	15
May ...	2.79	2.96	21	11
June ...	1.93	2.81	10	12
July ...	4.31	6.11	19	23
August ...	3.61	3.88	17	16
September ...	4.63	3.21	17	13
October ...	2.57	5.55	11	21
November ...	3.30	1.83	15	14
December ...	2.57	6.81	21	25
	<hr/> 36.81	<hr/> 41.50	<hr/> 200	<hr/> 195

SEWERAGE.—The sewage for the district is delivered into the Wigan Corporation mains, which pass through the district. It is then carried a distance of seven miles and suitably treated.

Little has been done towards the conversion to the water carriage system. This question is under consideration.

SCAVENGING.—Scavenging is carried on by the Council in a satisfactory manner.

DAIRY AND COWSHED REGULATIONS.—There are 14 Cowkeepers in the district. General cleanliness is kept in the cowsheds, but the drainage in some is not satisfactory. Light and ventilation could be improved upon.

The whole matter has been under consideration for some time, but the regulations have not been adopted so far.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There is one slaughter house in use in the district, and it is under systematic inspection.

BAKEHOUSES.—The bakehouses in the district have been inspected from time to time, and conform to the Council's regulations.

There are no underground bakehouses.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.—There are two factories in the district registered under the Act, a cotton mill and a roburite factory, and 28 workshops, comprising bolt and nailmakers, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, joiners, bakers, and dressmakers. They were inspected from time to time throughout the year. In no case was it found necessary to enforce the powers granted under this Act.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—There were no seizures of unsound food.

As to the outcome of systematic inspection, the following

nuisances were reported upon by the Nuisance Inspector and abated:—

Defective Ashpits and Closets	...	...	27
Blocked and Defective Drains	...	...	43
Defective Waste Pipes	...	...	3
Defective Spouts	...	...	5
Overcrowding Cases	...	...	8
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	1
Manure Heaps	...	...	3
Unpaved Cart Passage	...	...	1
Workshops Limewashed	...	...	6
Houses Cleansed and Limewashed		...	10
New Houses Certified	...	...	29
Closets Reconstructed	...	...	4
New Closets Erected	...	...	29
Houses Fumigated	...	...	21
Number of Privy Closets in township		...	1008
Number of Water Closets in township		...	103
Number of Slop Closets in township		...	8

Twelve written and several verbal notices secured the abatement of 111 nuisances, no legal proceedings being necessary.

	1908.	1909.
SCAVENGING.—Number of Ashpits Emptied	1722	2014
Number of Loads Removed	2698	3200

Cases of overcrowding are becoming more numerous, a condition which could be avoided by a little judicious enquiry before letting houses.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH FRASER,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.